

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 SCS-03 H-03 SS-20 NSC-07

RSC-01 DRC-01 /050 W
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R 131402Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6563

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, MA (REPPAS, GEORGE)

SUBJECT: W/W REPPAS

REF: A. STATE 195529; B. TANANARIVE 1358; C. TANANARIVE 1227

1. CONSULAR OFFICER VISITED REPPAS SEPT 10. REPPAS DIS-
APPOINTED THAT DEPARTMENT NOT YET READY TO EXPLAIN ACTIONS
IT CONSIDERING ON HIS BEHALF (REFTEL A). HE SAID THAT
SUCH SECRECY WAS "SILLY" AND COULD NOT UNDERSTAND LOGIC
BEHIND IT.

2. CONSULAR OFFICER TOLD REPPAS THAT LAWYER LEBEL HAD BEEN
CONTACTED HERE IN TANANARIVE (REFTEL B) AND WOULD MEET
WITH CONSULAR OFFICER SEPT 12 FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION OF
CASE. REPPAS SAID THAT HE WAS GLAD THAT LEBEL HAD RETURNED,
BUT HOPED THAT EMBASSY AND STATE DEPT WERE NOT PLANNING TO
"DEAL WITH THOSE CROOKS IN THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE." "IT'S
OBVIOUS THAT THE LEGAL PATH WON'T WORK WHILE THEY HAVE
THEIR HANDS OUT" REPPAS CONTINUED. CONSULAR OFFICER TOLD
REPPAS THAT EMBASSY HAS NO PLANS AT THIS TIME TO DEAL
DIRECTLY WITH MINISTRY OF JUSTICE. "WELL WHO ARE YOU
GOING TO DEAL WITH?" REPPAS ASKED. CONSULAR OFFICER REPEATED
THAT HE WOULD BE TOLD WHAT WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION AT
APPROPRIATE TIME.

3. CONSULAR OFFICER MET WITH LEBEL AS SCHEDULED AFTERNOON
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SEPT. 12. LEBEL BEGAN BY SAYING THAT INFORMATION RAVONY

HAD GIVEN CONCERNING TIMING OF APPEAL (REFTEL C) WAS COMPLETELY WRONG. RAPPORTEUR HAD NOT EVEN GIVEN HIS REPORT TO PROCUREUR GENERAL OF SUPREME COURT AND LEBEL DOUBTS IF IT IS EVEN WRITTEN. WITH CURRENT PACE LEBEL SAID THAT HE WOULD BE HAPPY IF DECISION WAS GIVEN BY DECEMBER. CONSULAR OFFICER ASKED IF SUCH A LENGTHY DELAY WAS DELIBERATE OR SIMPLE BUREAUCRATIC INERTIA. LEBEL FELT IT WAS THE LATTER AND SAW NO MALEVOLENCE BY COURT ITSELF AGAINST REPPAS. WHEN ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY ACTION THAT COULD BE TAKEN BY EMBASSY TO SPEED COURT, LEBEL RESPONDED THAT SOME CONTACT, POSSIBLY A "VISITE DE RENSEIGNEMENT" TO PRESIDENT OF SUPREME COURT, MIGHT PROD RAPPORTEUR TO COMPLETE HIS REPORT.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: IN VIEW OF PENDING VOLUNTARY PAROLE SCHEME, EMBASSY DOES NOT INTEND TO CONTACT PRESIDENT OF SUPREME COURT AT THIS TIME OR TO UNDERTAKE ANY OTHER ACTION TO SPEED COURT DECISION.

MENDENHALL

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